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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in the patent application of:) Attorney Docket No.: F-772
John P. Miller et al.) Group Art Unit: 2854
Serial No.: 10/742,305) Examiner: D. Ghatt
Filed: Dec. 18, 2003) Date: January 12, 2005
) Confirmation No.: 5695

Title: Dynamic Registration Device for Mailing System

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

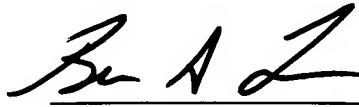
Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed Dec. 28, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-20, for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application (35 U.S.C. § 121). The independent claims in each group are directed to a registration device for registering a mail piece and a corresponding method for registering a mail piece. Accordingly, the search areas for the elected subject matter will overlap the search areas for the non-elected subject matter as well and thus no undue burden would be involved in examining all pending claims together. M.P.E.P. § 803 directs as follows (emphasis added): "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." This directive should be followed by the Examiner in this case.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of Claims 1-26 presently pending in this application be examined.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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